



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Shirley Chisholm

Shirley was born in 1924 in New York. She had 3 sisters and was the oldest child in her family. She went to college to be a nursery school teacher even though her high school teachers thought she should pursue a career in politics because she was so great on the debate team.

She got a promotion and became a consultant to the New York Division of Day Care. She saw the inequality in the care given to African American children and children from poverty. She decided to run for Congress and won a seat.

While in Congress, she introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation and got the nickname "Fighting Shirley". She didn't stop there, she joined the House Rules Committee and was the first African American woman and second woman to ever be on that committee.

In 1972, she wanted to run for the presidency but was stopped because she was a woman and was African American. Once she retired from Congress, she taught at a college and founded the National Political Congress for Black Women. She died in 2005.

Who is this passage about?

What was her first job?

What did Shirley do to better the lives of African Americans?

